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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 10	3
II.	INITIATIVES OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS	11 - 24	4
III.	ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE UNITED NATIONS	25 - 55	8
	A. Commission for Social Development	25 - 32	8
	B. Economic and Social Council	33 - 36	11
	C. Other functional commissions	37 - 43	12
	D. Regional commissions	44 - 49	14
	E. United Nations Secretariat	50 - 55	15

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CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
IV.	ACTIVITIES OF FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	56 - 75	17
	A. Initiatives taken by Administrative Committee on Coordination inter-agency task forces on follow-up to international conferences	57 - 64	17
	B. United Nations funds and programmes	65 - 69	19
	C. Specialized agencies of the United Nations system	70 - 75	20
V.	MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES	76 - 94	21
	A. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: Development Assistance Committee	77 - 78	22
	B. The 20/20 concept	79 - 81	22
	C. Target for official development assistance	82 - 83	23
	D. Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development	84	23
	E. United Nations Development Programme resources ...	85 - 86	24
	F. World Bank/International Development Association resources	87 - 88	24
	G. Debt	89 - 92	25
	H. New and innovative ideas for generating funds	93 - 94	25
VI.	INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER ACTORS	95 - 109	26

I. INTRODUCTION

1. It will be recalled that on 16 December 1992, the General Assembly, by its resolution 47/92, decided to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of Heads of State or Government. The Summit was held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995 and it adopted the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action (A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1).

2. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development" and considered in plenary, on 7 and 8 December 1995, the report of the World Summit for Social Development (A/CONF.166/9), which contained the Declaration and Programme of Action, and the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/50/670). The debate on this item reflected a general agreement that the Summit was an important landmark in the elaboration of national and international policies on social development through the United Nations.

3. In its resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995, the General Assembly endorsed the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and proclaimed the critical importance of national action and international cooperation for social development. The Assembly stressed the need for a renewed and massive political will at the national and international levels to invest in people and their well-being to achieve the objectives of social development. It reiterated the call to Governments to define time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment, and enhancing social integration, within each national context. The Assembly emphasized the need to promote an integrated and multidimensional approach to implement the Declaration and Programme of Action at all levels, and to develop effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society.

4. The General Assembly called upon all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to be involved in the follow-up to the Summit, and invited specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to the Summit.

5. The General Assembly decided that a revitalized Commission for Social Development, together with the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly itself, should constitute a "three-tiered intergovernmental process" in the follow-up to the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action. The Commission would have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Summit, while the Council would provide overall guidance and coordination. The Assembly itself, with its role in policy formulation, would hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives.

6. The General Assembly called upon the Commission to develop a multi-year programme of work to the year 2000, selecting specific themes and addressing them from an interrelated and integrated perspective, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and to present its recommendations to the Council, which should ensure harmonization between such a multi-year programme of work and those of other relevant functional commissions of the Council.

7. In the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed Council resolution 1995/60 of 28 July 1995 and called upon the Commission, when developing its multi-year programme of work for the follow-up to the Summit: (a) to adapt its mandate in order to ensure an integrated approach to social development; (b) to integrate the current sectoral issues on its agenda in the multi-year programme; (c) to review and update its methods of work and to make recommendations to ensure an effective follow-up to the Summit; (d) to establish the practice of inviting experts to contribute to its work; and (e) to consider integrating into its work high-level representatives on social development issues and policies.

8. The General Assembly requested the Commission, in view of the scope of its work, to consider the composition of its membership and the frequency of its sessions and to make recommendations thereon to the Council.

9. The General Assembly also requested the Commission to establish the practice of involving the relevant actors of civil society in the field of social development to contribute to its work, and requested the Secretary-General to present proposals to the Commission and the Council, taking into account the experience gained in other functional commissions, the Council and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and at the Summit.

10. The General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development", and to consider the implications for a more coherent treatment of related items on its agenda in the appropriate forums. The present report describes actions taken since the adoption of Assembly resolution 50/161. Bearing in mind that commitment 2 of the Copenhagen Declaration and chapter 2 of the Programme of Action provide the framework and general orientation for United Nations activities for the eradication of poverty, the present report should be read in conjunction with the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, also to be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-first session in accordance with resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995.

II. INITIATIVES OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

11. At the Social Summit, Heads of State or Government acknowledged that the primary responsibility to attain the goals set out in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action rested with national Governments, with the support and contributions of the international community, the United Nations, the multilateral financial institutions, all regional organizations and local authorities, and all actors of civil society, including private citizens.

12. In its resolution 50/161, the General Assembly reaffirmed that social development and the implementation of the Programme of Action were primarily the responsibility of Governments, while recognizing that international cooperation and assistance were essential for their full implementation. It reiterated the call to Governments to define time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment, and enhancing social integration, within each national context; for formulating or strengthening comprehensive cross-sectoral strategies for implementing the outcome of the Summit and national strategies for social development, by 1996; and for regularly assessing national progress towards implementing the outcome of the Summit.

13. Since the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the Secretary-General has written, on three occasions, in March, July and December 1995, to Heads of State or Government who had participated at the Summit, stressing the political significance of the event and of the commitments taken by them. He suggested the designation of a national focal point on the implementation of the agreements reached and requested that he be informed of national initiatives and other policy measures relevant to the implementation of the Summit, in particular, commitment 2 on the eradication of poverty. Subsequently, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development sent follow-up letters in March 1996 to those Governments bringing to their attention the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 50/107 on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in 1996 and the proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), and requested information concerning the actions taken for the Year and programmes and activities envisaged in their country in preparation for the Decade.

14. The Secretary-General is encouraged to have received responses from over 100 Governments, all of whom agreed on the importance of the Summit and the need to maintain the momentum created at Copenhagen. The main elements of these responses are summarized in the following paragraphs.

15. The majority of the replies stressed that to maintain the momentum for the implementation of the commitments adopted at Copenhagen, concrete initiatives at the national level were required with strong and visible support from the United Nations and the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions. International support and cooperation between nations, including among developed and developing countries and among developing countries, was equally important, and should be based on equality, mutual benefit and a spirit of partnership.

16. Close to 100 focal points have been designated, most of them in national ministries. For many countries, the results of the Summit provide the basis for the review and reformulation of existing social policies and laws, based on an integrated approach to social development. National strategies and programmes for social development, short-term, medium-term or long-term, have been formulated in many countries to address the core issues considered by the Summit. Some national committees, established for the preparation of the Summit, have been maintained for the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, and new ones are being established. A few countries have established special social funds or grants committed to finance projects for social

development, including to fight against poverty. Recognizing the importance of mobilizing awareness of the goals and commitments made in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action both at the international and national levels, many countries have taken the initiative to translate these documents into their national languages. Regional meetings and seminars on the follow-up to the Summit have been held, including the Conference on Eradication of Poverty and Discrimination held in Chile in January 1996. The Government of Austria is actively pursuing the offer made by its Chancellor at the Summit to host a regional meeting at the European level in Vienna in 1997 to review the progress made towards fulfilling the outcome of the Summit.

17. Denmark, host Government of the Social Summit, took the lead immediately following the Summit to launch two initiatives on its follow-up. The first is a statistical project and the second the organization of a series of seminars for social progress. The report from the first initiative analyses the Copenhagen Programme of Action and attempts to define the components of social development covered; it describes those statistics already available in some of these areas and confirms the non-existence or inadequacy of statistics in other areas. The Government believes that better statistics are essential for a meaningful debate on the solutions to social problems. The second initiative, the Copenhagen seminars for social progress, aim at enriching the international debate on some of the issues confronting contemporary societies and will further clarify the relationship between international economic trends and the social conditions of nations and people. The first of these seminars, entitled "Conditions for Social Progress: A World Economy for the Benefit of All", will be held at Copenhagen in October 1996 and will bring together about 30 prominent personalities from different walks of life and from different parts of the world. The four themes to be discussed will be: economic integration through partnership; economic justice through solidarity; self interest and the common good; and elements for a humane world economy.

18. On the topic of mobilization of additional resources for social programmes in developing and least developed countries, Governments from both developed and developing countries recognize the critical importance of official development assistance. Many donor countries are reviewing their policies on development cooperation such as allocating a certain percentage of its official development assistance to basic human needs, focusing on efforts to combat poverty, protect the environment and resources, and provide education, training and primary health care.

19. At the invitation of the Governments of Norway and the Netherlands, a number of interested countries and multilateral organizations met at Oslo in April 1996 on the implementation of the 20/20 initiative, which aims at increasing significantly and/or utilizing more efficiently the resources allocated to social development in order to achieve the goals of the Summit. The question of debt reduction or cancellation is also being stressed by many developing and least developed countries as one of the main prerequisites for their implementation of the goals of the Summit.

20. Many countries agreed on the need to strengthen the role of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and the civil society, recognizing them as partners of the Government in the follow-up to the Summit,

and steps are being taken to ensure their participation in the elaboration of social policies and programmes.

21. In the majority of countries, poverty eradication remains the top priority. Some Governments have launched initiatives to eradicate poverty, such as stimulating job creation and growth, maintaining an effective safety net consisting of a comprehensive social security system, universal health care and community and education services, and providing adequate housing; others have adopted national targets to reduce the level of poverty by a certain year. Mechanisms have been set up to elaborate national policy guidelines aimed at enhancing social integration of the poor, and a number of organizing committees for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty have been established. Initiatives are also being designed to address the root causes of poverty and studies and surveys are being carried out to obtain national data on poverty.

22. Leaders of the Group of Seven industrialized countries (G7) held their most recent meeting at Lyon, France, from 27 to 29 June 1996. The Secretary-General of the United Nations also attended the meeting. The final communiqué of the meeting addressed issues relevant to the follow-up of the Copenhagen Summit, including strengthening economic and monetary cooperation; promoting strong and mutually beneficial growth of trade and investment; enhancing the approach to employment problems; implementing a new global partnership for development; enhancing the effectiveness of multilateral institutions for the benefit of development; providing necessary multilateral support for development; and successful integration into the global economy of countries with economies in transition.

23. In particular, with regard to enhancing their approach to employment problems, the G7 leaders emphasized the need to enhance the effectiveness of policies aimed at stimulating growth and jobs. They agreed to pursue the following policies:

(a) Reaffirming that investment in people is as vital as investment in capital, they called for paying special attention to sound basic education, skill formation and training, which is a lifelong undertaking, and improving the transition from school to work;

(b) Determined to prevent and fight against social exclusion, they stressed the need to define ways to reinforce people's employability throughout their working lives by facilitating the transition from one job to another;

(c) Pledging to carry out practical reforms, consistent with the specific situation in each country, they aimed to achieve a high level of employment and widely shared prosperity, and reforms of the tax and social system to ensure that "work pays", particularly for the least well-off; lowering social security charges, which place a burden on low-skilled jobs, in countries with high indirect labour costs; and improving public employment agencies;

(d) Eager to foster entrepreneurship, they agreed to modernize, where necessary, regulatory frameworks in the markets for goods and services, to enhance their economies' ability to respond to rapid change and to encourage job creation;

(e) Acknowledging the ability of small and medium-sized businesses to create plentiful, quality jobs, they agreed to facilitate the dissemination of new technologies.

24. Finally, it should be noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/161, reiterated the Summit's call for Governments to assess national progress towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, possibly in the form of periodic national reports, outlining successes, problems and obstacles. It further stated that such reports could be considered within the framework of an appropriate consolidated reporting system, taking into account the different reporting procedures in the economic, social and environmental fields. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, also decided that the voluntary submission of national information, for example national action plans or national reports by Governments, should be encouraged.

III. ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Commission for Social Development

25. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/60, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/161, the Commission for Social Development held a special session in New York from 21 to 31 May 1996. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the functioning of the Commission (E/CN.5/1996/2), which contained an overview of the past and present work of the Commission, recalled intergovernmental decisions adopted since the Social Summit and put forward points for discussion by the Commission and decision by the Council on its future work.

26. The Commission recommended, for adoption by the Council, a resolution entitled "Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the future role of the Commission for Social Development" 1/ that set out a framework for its functioning. It also recommended that the Council call upon all relevant organs, organizations, bodies and specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to be involved in the follow-up of the Summit, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ILO, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO); reiterate the invitation extended by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to set up joint meetings, for consultations with the heads of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, ILO, the United Nations funds and programmes, and other relevant agencies for the purpose of enhancing the cooperation of their respective organizations in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action; decide that the task forces established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination for the follow-up to the Summit and other related United Nations conferences should inform the Commission and the Council of the progress made in their work for the purpose of system-wide coordination; stress the importance of ensuring the participation of high-level representatives from the field of social development in the work of the Commission; reaffirm the need to ensure effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society; and decided, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of social development, that such organizations should be encouraged to

participate in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation related to the Summit.

27. The Commission, after reviewing its terms of reference, proposed that its existing mandate be reaffirmed. In fulfilling its mandate, it should assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and advise the Council accordingly. To that end, the Commission should: (a) improve international understanding on social development through, inter alia, the exchange of information and experience; (b) integrate, within the framework of the follow-up to the Summit, consideration of issues relating to the situation of social groups, including review of relevant United Nations programmes of action related to such groups, and consideration of other sectoral issues; (c) identify emerging issues affecting social development that require urgent consideration, and make substantive recommendations thereon; (d) make recommendations regarding social development to the Council; (e) elaborate practical measures aimed at furthering Summit recommendations; (f) identify issues requiring improved system-wide coordination, taking into account substantive inputs from different organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the contributions of other functional commissions concerned, in order to assist the Council in its coordination functions; and (g) maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

28. With regard to the structure of its agenda and its work programme for the years 1997 to 2000, the Commission proposed that they should be built around the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, incorporating also the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups. The substantive item would be "Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development", including three sub-items: (a) subjects identified in the multi-year programme of work, including the situation of social groups; (b) review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, as necessary; and (c) emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development, as necessary.

29. Concerning its multi-year programme of work for the years 1997-2000, the Commission recognized that the core issues of the Summit were interrelated and interdependent, and that issues relating to the enabling environment for social development, the special situation of Africa and the least developed countries, enhancement of social development goals in structural adjustment, the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development, and the framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development, should be considered every year; and that the Commission should apply a gender perspective when discussing the different topics. The Commission proposed the following programme of work:

1997: Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

Theme: "Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods": (a) the centrality of employment in policy formulation, including a broader recognition

of work and employment; (b) improving access to productive resources and infrastructure; and (c) enhanced quality of work and employment.

1998: Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

Theme: "Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons": (a) promoting social integration through responsive government, full participation in society, non-discrimination, tolerance, equality and social justice; (b) enhancing social protection, reducing vulnerability and enhancing employment opportunities for groups with specific needs; and (c) violence, crime and the problem of illicit drugs and substance abuse as factors of social disintegration.

1999: Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

Theme 1: "Social services for all" and theme 2: "Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit".

2000: Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

Theme: "Contribution of the Commission to the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit".

30. Regarding the question of membership, frequency and duration of sessions, the Commission recommended an increase in its membership from 32 to 46, to be elected from among the States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies (12 seats for African States, 10 seats for Asian States, 9 seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, 5 seats for Eastern European States, and 10 seats for Western European and other States). It also recommended that it should meet annually in New York, beginning in 1997, for a period of eight working days.

31. Concerning its methods of work, the Commission proposed that panels of experts should be formed, including experts appointed by the Secretary-General, experts working within the United Nations system and experts from Governments and civil society; that those experts should be chosen from the fields of study addressed under the critical areas of concern, taking into account equitable geographical distribution and the involvement of non-governmental organizations; that the selection of experts, the composition of the panels and the allocation of time to dialogues should be decided inter-sessionally by the Bureau of the Commission; and the meetings should be allotted for dialogue within the United Nations system and civil society and among governmental delegations.

32. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1995/324 of 12 December 1995, the Commission, at its special session in 1996, considered as its substantive theme: "Strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty: (a) formulation of integrated strategies; (b) meeting the basic human needs of all; and (c) promotion of self-reliance and community-based initiatives". The Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.5/1996/3), which recalled the main recommendations adopted by the Social Summit, indicated key areas that called for further policy development to assist implementation, and outlined various options for consideration by public

authorities and other social actors. The Commission held three panel meetings with invited experts, as well as a dialogue with the chairpersons of the inter-agency task forces on follow-up to recent major international conferences established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination on issues related to this item. The Commission subsequently adopted resolution S-1996/1 2/ calling for the implementation of agreed measures to eradicate poverty and for strengthened international cooperation. It stressed the need to implement sound and stable macroeconomic, microeconomic and sectoral policies that encouraged broad-based, sustained economic growth and development, and called upon the international community to seek to mobilize additional financial resources that were both adequate and predictable to contribute to poverty eradication.

B. Economic and Social Council

33. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/161, reaffirmed that the Economic and Social Council would provide overall guidance and oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and make recommendations in that regard. It requested the Council to continue examining ways to strengthen its role, authority, structures, resources and processes, bringing specialized agencies into a closer working relationship with it, and invited the Council to review the reporting system in the area of social development with a view to establishing a coherent system that could result in clear policy recommendations for Governments and international actors.

34. The coordination segment of the Council was devoted to the theme "Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty". A set of agreed conclusions was adopted (agreed conclusions 1996/1), in which the Council stressed the important role played by the United Nations system in the overall effort for poverty eradication and in assisting Member States in translating the global goals and commitments of the international conferences and the statutory mandates of each organization into concrete actions and activities at all levels. The Council expressed concern at the decline in concessional resources for multilateral development institutions, which makes it more difficult for them to respond to the massive challenge of assisting countries in poverty eradication. It urged that high priority be devoted to strengthening the collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels. It called for mainstreaming the gender perspective in United Nations activities for poverty eradication and a harmonized and integrated approach to intergovernmental consideration of poverty eradication. The Council will focus on the provision of comprehensive guidelines and coordination of the work of other organs to ensure a multidimensional, integrated and gender-sensitive approach to poverty eradication in accordance with, inter alia, the provisions of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development.

35. The Council adopted resolution 1996/7 on "Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the future role of the Commission for Social Development", as outlined in paragraphs 26 to 31 above.

36. The Council also adopted resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 on consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, updating and revising arrangements that had been in place since the adoption of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 1968. In that resolution, the Council, inter alia, recognized the importance of the participation of non-governmental organizations without consultative status that participated in international conferences in the follow-up process and decided that their application for consultative status should be reviewed as expeditiously as possible so as to allow their participation in the implementation phase of the conference. It also decided that in the interim, the Council should decide on the participation of non-governmental organizations accredited to an international conference in the work of the relevant functional commission on the follow-up to and implementation of that conference. Those revised procedures would apply to all non-governmental organizations accredited to the Social Summit and its preparatory process.

C. Other functional commissions

37. By its resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the General Assembly decided that in the case of functional commissions with the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the implementation of major conferences, the Council should ensure the coordination of their multi-year programmes, in accordance with the agreed conclusions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1995 on the coordinated follow-up of the results of major international conferences.

38. At its substantive session in 1996, the Council adopted resolution 1996/36 of 26 July 1996 on follow-up to the major international United Nations conferences and summits, including the implementation of their respective programmes of action, and decided that it should continue to ensure, on a regular basis, the harmonization and coordination of the multi-year work programmes of relevant functional commissions by promoting a clear division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them. At the same session, the Council also adopted resolution 1996/41 of 26 July 1996 on the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227: initiation of reviews, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive document compiling information on the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies and to submit it to the Council not later than February 1997; and decided to consider further the review of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies comprehensively during a resumed substantive session in the autumn of 1997 and to take decisions at that time.

39. In its decision 4/2, adopted at its fourth session, 3/ the Commission on Sustainable Development took note of the report of the Secretary-General on combating poverty (E/CN.17/1996/9), and reiterated the decisions made at its third session on the issue of combating poverty. In accordance with commitment 2 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Commission urged Governments to formulate or strengthen, as a matter of urgency, national strategies to eradicate absolute poverty and reduce overall poverty. In

addition, the Commission recommended that Governments integrate environmental issues in such strategies and ensure that they were related to national sustainable development strategies. Such strategies should be supported by the international community, which should assist developing countries, including through international organizations, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social protection. The Commission recognized that meeting the basic human needs of all and eradicating absolute poverty was an objective of the highest priority that had been regarded as such in all the recent United Nations conferences convened since the World Summit for Children in 1990.

40. In its resolution 40/9, on the implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical area of concern: poverty, 4/ the Commission on the Status of Women reaffirmed the importance of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women as well as the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990, in particular the World Summit for Social Development. Recognizing that the eradication of poverty would require the implementation and integration of strategies at the national and international levels in all the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Commission emphasized, among other things, that empowering women was a critical factor in the eradication of poverty and giving particular priority to the situation of women living in poverty, recognizing the need to improve their access to income, education, health care and other resources.

41. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/161, requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations bodies to take appropriate measures, in a coordinated manner, to strengthen the United Nations capacity for gathering and analysing information and developing indicators of social development, taking into account the work carried out by different countries, in particular by developing countries, as well as for providing policy and technical support and advice, upon request, to improve national capacities in this regard.

42. At its twenty-eighth session, the Statistical Commission requested its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination to consider further the statistical implications of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. The Commission also established the Expert Group on the Statistical Implications of Recent Major United Nations Conferences to draw up a work programme reflecting the major action areas identified by the Summit and indicators where international statistical work in the social field should be concentrated. The Expert Group reached agreement on a core list of 15 specific indicators comprising a minimum special data set to be collected by each country. The Bureau of the Commission agreed to recommend the indicators to the Commission for its endorsement.

43. Other functional commissions, such as the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, also discussed issues related to the Summit and presented appropriate recommendations for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

D. Regional commissions

44. In its resolution 50/161, the General Assembly invited the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to consider convening, on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to review progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, to exchange views on their respective experiences and to adopt the appropriate measures. In response to the Summit's call for increased cooperation at all levels, the regional commissions are expected to play a major role in supporting the implementation of the objectives set out in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, in particular to assist developing countries, Africa and the least developed countries, and the countries with economies in transition.

45. As follow-up to the Summit, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) planned two workshops to be held in 1996; the first, on managing the social consequences of structural change in transition economies (Paris, 1 and 2 July 1996), provided a forum for joint reflection and exchange of experiences between experts and senior officials in charge of economic and social policies in both transition and developed market economies. The second, scheduled for Geneva, is devoted to defining strategies for providing income security in old age with an emphasis on eradication of poverty among the most vulnerable groups of older persons.

46. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has been requested by the Commission to convene a regional ministerial conference on social development in 1997 to review and assess the progress achieved towards attaining the goals and targets of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and the Agenda for Action on Social Development adopted by the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference at Manila in October 1994, and to consider means of enhancing regional cooperation. ESCAP has prepared and disseminated a publication on enhancing the role of non-governmental organizations in implementing the regional Agenda for Action; convened a regional workshop on guidelines for implementing the Agenda; held an expert group meeting on the enhancement of social security for the poor; and a meeting of senior officials on a policy framework for lifelong preparation for old age.

47. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) participated in two Summit follow-up meetings: the Summit Meeting of Social Welfare Ministers from the Rio Group (Buenos Aires, 4-6 May 1995) and the regional technical follow-up meeting on the agreements reached at the Social Summit (Quito, 15-17 November 1995). ECLAC also collaborated with the Government of Chile in organizing the Hemispheric Conference on the Eradication of Poverty and Discrimination, held at Santiago on 18 and 19 January 1996. In response to the call by the Social Summit and General Assembly resolution 50/161, the Government of Brazil has offered to host a meeting at a high political level to evaluate progress made towards fulfilling the outcome of the Summit, in cooperation with regional organizations and banks, in São Paulo in March 1997.

48. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) uses its report, Human Development in Africa, as the main vehicle for reporting on the trends and developments relating to social and human development in Africa. The first issue focused on the themes "Goals for the child", "Health for all" and "Basic education for all". The next issue will include indicators to assess the progress made in advancing social development at the country level, focusing on the commitments made at the Social Summit and other major United Nations conferences in the areas of social development, with a view to analysing the extent to which the commitments have been met. The report will also serve as a tool for inter-agency monitoring at the regional level.

49. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) undertook several activities, including the publication of seven studies on poverty - concepts, measurement and determinants, and policies. Three of these studies entail poverty profiles for selected countries of the region, while another study proposes a region-specific model for poverty measurement and a social perspective of poverty for the region. ESCWA is also coordinating with ILO to design profiles for poverty alleviation policies in four specific sectors in Lebanon - health, education, employment and fiscal policy. In the area of social integration, ESCWA established the first Arab regional computer training centre for blind women/girls, located at Amman.

E. United Nations Secretariat

50. In its resolution 50/161, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure an effectively functioning secretariat, within which clear responsibility was assigned to assist with the implementation of and follow-up to the Summit and the servicing of the intergovernmental bodies involved.

51. The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development is responsible for the provision of technical and substantive services of the relevant intergovernmental bodies that review and appraise the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, in particular the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. It prepares documentation and policy recommendations on social development issues for consideration by these bodies; keeps abreast of activities and actions taken by national governments, the United Nations system, and all actors of the civil society; and serves as a link with non-governmental organizations on the monitoring and implementation of the objectives of the Summit. The Department published a special issue of the review "Social Policy and Social Progress" devoted to the Social Summit, as well as a newsletter entitled "Summit Plus One" (three issues in 1996), and two issues of the "Bulletin on the Eradication of Poverty".

52. The Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis produces global economic, social, environmental and demographic data, as well as policy analyses relevant to assessing progress made since the Summit and evaluating policy initiatives taken to implement the Copenhagen Programme of Action. For example, the 1996 edition of the annual World Economic and Social Survey not only reviews the current situation in the world economy, it also

addresses issues that are pertinent to the follow-up of the Summit. The 1997 edition of the quadrennial Report on the World Social Situation will focus on trends and policies related to the three core issues of the Summit, as well as the role of economic and social institutions and policy instruments in efforts to eradicate poverty, expand employment opportunities and promote social integration. The Department's work in the areas of statistics, social indicators, demographic trends, including assistance in the definition of a minimum national social data set, further supports national and international follow-up of the Summit and evaluation of the effectiveness of measures to implement the Programme of Action.

53. The Department for Development Support and Management Services provides technical assistance in the formulation of national social development strategies in the framework of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. In cooperation with UNDP, the Department is responsible for a number of projects in the field of poverty analysis and poverty alleviation. With the support of the Government of Sweden, an international conference on Public Administration and Social Development was held in Stockholm in October 1995, in preparation for the resumed session of the General Assembly on public administration and development (April 1996). The Assembly, in its resolution 50/225 of 19 April 1996 urged the development of the necessary capabilities in public administrations to enable them to help implement the commitments agreed upon in major conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development.

54. The Department of Public Information, in response to resolution 50/161, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, called upon the Secretary-General to disseminate as widely as possible the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, developed media initiatives and disseminated information material, including press releases, press kits and posters. The Department published in booklet form the Declaration and Programme of Action (DPI/1707) in English and French which has been disseminated to media, non-governmental organizations and other interested members of civil society, and is planning a Spanish language version. In cooperation with the Government of Denmark, the Department undertook an analysis of the press coverage of the Summit. Thousands of articles and commentaries about the Summit published in newspapers and magazines around the world were analysed. A representative sample from 39 countries has been published in a booklet entitled "World Summit for Social Development: Press Analysis". An information kit on the eradication of poverty is being distributed in English, French and Spanish in time for the observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October. The Department's worldwide network of 78 information offices will use this kit as part of their activities for the International Day and Year, and to follow-up the Summit.

55. Members of the Joint United Nations Information Committee, at its twenty-second session (Geneva, 3-5 July 1996), exchanged views on how best to coordinate their planned public information activities on issues related to the follow-up to the Social Summit and to the cycle of international conferences on development issues, as well as on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. To this end, an open-ended Working Group of the Committee was established in New York and was entrusted with the task of coordinating the follow-up activities of Committee members on all major themes of recent United Nations-sponsored conferences in order to take full advantage of the momentum of

public and media interest on issues such as poverty eradication, sustainable development, population, women and others.

IV. ACTIVITIES BY FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

56. The Programme of Action of the Social Summit calls for expanded and improved cooperation of the United Nations system, including the technical and sectoral agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, in the field of social development to ensure complementarity of actions. At its substantive session of 1995, the Economic and Social Council approved its agreed conclusions (1995/1) on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and the implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

A. Initiatives taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination inter-agency task forces on follow-up to international conferences

57. The Administrative Committee on Coordination, at its October 1995 session, in order to ensure that the United Nations system effectively provides support for the integrated implementation at the country level of the action programmes that emerged from the World Summit for Social Development and other recent United Nations conferences, established inter-agency task forces, respectively, on basic social services for all, chaired by UNFPA; employment and sustainable livelihoods, chaired by ILO; and the enabling environment for economic and social development, chaired by the World Bank.

58. The prime objective of the inter-agency task forces is to support, from Headquarters, in a coordinated manner, Resident Coordinators and the United Nations system country team in providing assistance to Governments and national institutions in implementing Summit and other conference goals and commitments.

59. At its first meeting (25 and 26 January 1996), the Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods agreed on its terms of reference and that the main activity should be the organization of country reviews covering a representative sample of countries in order: (a) to assess current policies affecting employment and sustainable livelihoods; (b) to provide lessons of country experience based largely on these country reviews; and (c) to demonstrate the possibility of the United Nations system working together at the country level in order to provide support to the individual country in designing and implementing policy alternatives to achieve full employment and reduce poverty. In addition, three specific topics were identified where it was felt that work could augment the country review activity. These were: (a) the impact of globalization and technological change on employment and sustainable livelihoods; (b) the relationship between employment and sustainable livelihoods; and (c) indicators for employment and sustainable livelihoods.

60. At its second meeting (17 April 1996), the Task Force discussed a proposed framework for country reviews, prepared by ILO, stressing the issues to be

covered by the final reports, the data necessary for the reports and the outline of the reports. The modalities of country reviews and financing and organizing country activities were also discussed. An amended and revised version of the framework paper was discussed in the third meeting of the Task Force (9 July 1996). It was decided that a synthesis report will be prepared by the lead agency, ILO, drawing largely on the country reviews in order to provide the main lessons of experience and the best practices that could be followed in pursuing the objectives of full employment and sustainable livelihoods.

61. The Task Force on Basic Social Services for All chaired by UNFPA met in February 1996. It set up two working groups: on primary health care, with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as joint lead agencies; and on basic education, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as the lead agency. The Task Force decided to produce: (a) guidelines for the United Nations Resident Coordinator System; (b) a wall-chart with indicators for social services, delineating current levels attained and establishing goals; (c) best practices/lessons learned; (d) a pocket-card on advocacy; and (e) a set of indicators to measure the implementation of recommendations emanating from recent United Nations conferences in the social sector.

62. The guidelines address sectoral issues by taking into account, inter alia, use of indicators to measure and monitor progress; financing and resource mobilization; gender perspective; focus on specific groups, particularly those in post-crisis situations; policy consideration; and the involvement of civil society. Nutrition, environment and shelter will also be taken into consideration as appropriate. The Chairperson of the Task Force wrote to United Nations Resident Coordinators, outlining the proposed terms of reference of the Task Force and inviting their inputs, comments and views on the applicability of the end products/outcome expected from the work of the Task Force.

63. The mandate of the Task Force on the Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development chaired by the World Bank derives in major part from commitments 1, 8 and 9 of the Copenhagen Declaration. At its organizational meeting (22 March 1996), the Task Force decided to establish a synthesis of best practices or lessons learned with an aim: (a) to clarify the elements of an enabling environment for economic and social development; (b) to establish mechanisms for improving inter-agency coordination in support of such an environment; and (c) to provide respective constituents with standardized inter-agency performance indicators of social and economic progress that represent the development agenda reflected in the outcome of the major conferences. The Task Force agreed to establish three sub-groups to address the major issues within its purview: (a) capacity-building for governance (chaired by UNDP); (b) macroeconomic and social framework (chaired by World Bank); and (c) indicators (chaired by the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the Secretariat). Task Force participants suggested that globalization, science, and the importance of technology transfer in economic and social development were possible subjects for further, in-depth examination.

64. At its first regular session for 1996, the Administrative Committee on Coordination decided to establish an Inter-Agency Committee on Women, with the responsibility of addressing on a system-wide basis all aspects of the

implementation of the Platform of Action of the World Conference on Women that come within the purview of the system, as well as questions on the improvement of the status of women within the United Nations system. The Administrative Committee on Coordination agreed that the Committee should interact closely with the task forces on the coordinated follow-up to conferences.

B. United Nations funds and programmes

65. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/161, inter alia, requested the UNDP to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations system towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels and to support the coordinated implementation of social development programmes through the resident coordinator system.

66. UNDP is assisting national efforts to follow up the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. In March 1996, the Administrator launched the Poverty Strategies Initiative, releasing immediate assistance to programme countries to foster an enabling environment for poverty eradication, complete and implement national poverty eradication plans and strategies during 1996, and define and measure indicators of poverty. There are three important elements of UNDP work towards these objectives: sustainable livelihoods policies and programmes; enhanced civil participation; and gender concerns. To date 42 proposals have been approved for funding under the Poverty Strategies Initiative: 16 from Africa (amounting to $2.1 million); 4 from the Arab States ($600,000); 8 from Asia and the Pacific ($1.1 million); 8 from Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States ($925,000); and 6 from Latin America and the Caribbean ($895,000). All the proposals have been focused on providing upstream support in the areas of poverty analysis, policy review and strategy formulation. This often involves undertaking poverty surveys and assessments to supplement existing information where gaps exist; engaging national partners in a review of the policy and institutional framework for poverty reduction; assessing the impact of current social policy and poverty programmes on vulnerable groups; mapping alternative policy choices for poverty reduction; building consensus and validation among national actors on the nature and causes of poverty as well as the most effective strategies to combat it; and strengthening national capacity for poverty and social analysis, monitoring and evaluation.

67. At the country level, the UNDP Resident Coordinator system is encouraging collaborative follow-up to the Social Summit. The Resident Coordinators, in close cooperation with agency representatives, are charged with establishing thematic groups that will draw on, but not necessarily be identical to, the inter-agency task forces. Most of the UNDP country offices have decided to use existing inter-agency working groups to undertake the work, rather than establish new mechanisms. UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank had also initiated collaboration on poverty indicators and monitoring which has as its objectives to strengthen capacity to gather and analyse information on and develop indicators of social development.

68. The programmes of action of both the International Conference on Population and Development and the Social Summit emphasize a broad range of issues that

encompass key aspects of the challenge of "meeting basic human needs" and eradicating poverty. The approach of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is empowering women and providing them with more choices through expanded access to education and health services, including reproductive health with family planning, and through promoting skill development and employment. The programme includes goals with regard to the provision of reproductive health services; education, especially for girls, and also goals for the further reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality. UNFPA-supported activities are oriented towards low-income groups in both rural and urban areas of developing countries with special emphasis on women's reproductive age.

69. Provision of basic social services is of particular importance to the implementation of the outcome of both the World Summit for Children and the Copenhagen Summit. UNICEF strongly argues in favour of sustained investment in basic social services as part of the strategy of "growth through poverty reduction". Its strategy for promoting universal access to basic social services is threefold: (a) direct support to service delivery; (b) capacity-building and social mobilization; and (c) advocacy. UNICEF emphasizes the need to sustain investment in children in good times and in bad, and in times of fiscal restraint and economic liberalization. UNICEF's review of country experiences where remarkable social progress has been achieved shows that their common features include strong political commitment to the well-being of children, widespread community participation in the delivery of basic social services and the allocation of adequate resources to the cause of children. The adoption of national goals and targets have facilitated the mobilization of commitments, resources and community efforts.

C. Specialized agencies of the United Nations system

70. The specialized agencies participated actively in preparations for the Summit and at the Summit itself. Follow-up activities have been initiated or are being considered by the respective governing bodies. Country-level initiatives under way are briefly summarized in the section on the activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination task forces (paras. 57-64 above). Additional information on individual agency initiatives is set out in the following paragraphs.

71. The conclusions on "employment policies in a global context" adopted by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-third session in June 1996 confirmed and expanded on the Copenhagen consensus about the centrality of full employment as a major goal of economic and social policies. It emphasized that high and productive levels of employment through enterprise development are fundamental means of combating poverty, of ensuring equity, of meeting people's aspirations for participation in economic and social life, and of preserving social cohesion. Conversely, the Conference stressed that high unemployment breeds exclusion and other social ills, increases poverty and inequality, and inflicts a high human cost on the unemployed in terms of reduced well-being and loss of dignity.

72. The follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development was among the main topics considered in 1995 by the Development Committee of the World Bank and the

Interim Committee of IMF. In pursuance of the Summit recommendations, the Bank and the Fund are devoting more attention to the composition of public expenditure in their discussions with Governments. The Summit has reinforced and expanded the Bank's work in the area of social development. Social development and human resource development are two of the areas in which cooperation also between the Bank and the Fund is expanding.

73. The World Bank currently provides new external finance for the social sectors amounting annually to $2 billion for education, $1 billion for health, $150 million for population programmes and $180 million for nutrition. The composition of lending has changed to give more emphasis to primary education, girls' education and primary health care. Social sector spending also includes new activities, such as support to pension systems, unemployment compensation and gender equity programmes.

74. In view of the IMF mandate, its contribution focuses mainly on helping to establish the macroeconomic framework needed to underpin the implementation of social and sectoral programmes. Nevertheless, IMF has sought to incorporate, where possible, the major recommendations of United Nations global conferences into its policy dialogue with each country. For example, in the social sector, IMF is increasing its attention to devising measures to protect the most vulnerable segments of society. Some of these measures have included social safety nets and targeted protection mechanisms. IMF has encouraged Governments to protect funding for basic social and infrastructural services. As a follow-up to the Summit, IMF is strengthening - in collaboration with the World Bank - its attention to the efficiency of public expenditure (including basic social spending) as well as its coordination efforts with ILO in search of more efficient labour market policies and cost-effective social protection instruments.

75. The Social Summit called for accelerating the economic, social and human resources development of Africa and the least developed countries. On 15 March 1996, the Secretary-General, the President of the World Bank, and heads of United Nations agencies at Geneva, Nairobi, New York, Paris and Rome, launched the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, a programme of concrete actions to accelerate African development. The Special Initiative aims over a 10-year period to expand greatly basic education and health care, promote peace and better governance, and improve water and food security. It also involves a year-long mobilization of political commitment and support for Africa.

V. MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

76. In its resolution 50/161, the General Assembly recognized that the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action would require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels.

A. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: Development Assistance Committee

77. The Copenhagen Programme of Action addressed the need to meet the basic human needs of all in its chapter on the eradication of poverty. Governments reiterated many commitments that had previously been made to meet basic human needs, particularly in the areas of basic education and primary health care. Assistance from the international community will contribute greatly to meeting these commitments.

78. At its recent (thirty-fourth) session in Paris, the high-level meeting of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) proposed a global development partnership effort to achieve many of these goals, including:

(a) A reduction by one half in the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015;

(b) Universal primary education in all countries by 2015;

(c) Demonstrated progress toward gender equality and the empowerment of women by eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005;

(d) A reduction by two thirds in the mortality rates for infants and children under five years of age and a reduction by three fourths in maternal mortality, all by 2015;

(e) Access through the primary health-care system to reproductive health services for all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015;

(f) The current implementation of national strategies for sustainable development in all countries by 2005, so as to ensure that current trends in the loss of environmental resources are effectively reversed at both global and national levels by 2015.

B. The 20/20 concept

79. In its resolution 50/161, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing countries to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes.

80. In follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Governments of Norway and the Netherlands invited a number of interested countries and multilateral organizations to meet at Oslo from 23 to 25 April 1996 to review the implementation of the 20/20 initiative. The meeting was convened to express a mutual commitment and pursue a common ambition to achieve universal access to basic social services by reorienting existing and mobilizing additional

resources as well as increasing cost-effectiveness, efficiency and quality in service delivery. Among the conclusions reached at the meeting were:

(a) The objective of eradicating absolute poverty required a broad range of policies and actions at all levels: an appropriate economic framework based on sound macroeconomic policies; a well-developed infrastructure; strengthened institutions and capacity; as well as programmes designed to meet basic human needs;

(b) Within that framework, development of basic social services was particularly important in reducing the worst aspects of poverty and was key in breaking the poverty cycle;

(c) Developing countries should take the lead and set the priorities, and Governments were encouraged to prepare basic social programmes as part of the poverty reduction strategy suggested by the Social Summit, with the aim of achieving universal access to basic social services over an ambitious but realistic time period;

(d) Support was invited from donor countries and multilateral agencies in the preparation and implementation of such programmes.

81. In that context, the 20/20 concept was considered useful for giving higher priority to basic social services. The main focus should be the effective and efficient delivery of basic social services to poor and vulnerable segments of the populations. Basic social services were understood to include basic education and primary health care, including reproductive health and population programmes, nutrition programmes and safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as the institutional capacity for delivering those services.

C. Target for official development assistance

82. Commitment 9 of the Copenhagen Declaration includes a pledge by donor Governments to strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for overall official development assistance as soon as possible, and to increase the share of funding for social development programmes, commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the objectives and goals of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action.

83. The countries members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee spend about $60 billion each year for official development assistance. For the donor group as a whole, this represents about 0.3 per cent of gross national product.

D. Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

84. In paragraph 44 of resolution 50/161, the General Assembly decided that the former Trust Fund for the World Summit for Social Development should be continued and renamed the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for

Social Development, with the aim of supporting programmes, seminars and activities for the promotion of social development in implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, including activities of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. The Secretary-General has taken action in revising the terms of reference and the title of the Trust Fund, and invites all interested States to contribute to the Fund.

E. United Nations Development Programme resources

85. Overall new income of UNDP in 1995 amounted to $1.6 billion, as against $1.2 billion in 1991. Voluntary contributions accounted for $900 million of total income (as against $950 million in 1991), while cost-sharing income accounted for $600 million (as against some $200 million in 1991).

86. Expenditure in 1995 totalled $1.4 billion (as against $1.5 billion in 1991). Programme expenditure was around $1 billion in 1995, of which just under one half represented IPF expenditure and over one half cost-sharing related to programmes and projects financed under indicative planning figures. Of the total amount devoted to programme expenditures, $179 million was spent in Africa; $59 million in Arab countries; $189 million in Asia and the Pacific; $20 million in Europe; and $452 million in Latin America and the Caribbean. Support was provided to 565 different projects that might be considered to be follow-up to the World Summit. A total of $345 million was allocated to projects in the area of poverty eradication and $31 million was allocated to projects in the area of employment and sustainable livelihoods.

F. World Bank/International Development Association resources

87. Representatives of more than 30 donor countries agreed at Tokyo in March 1996 on new funding for the International Development Association (IDA). They endorsed a package that will allow concessional lending of $22 billion to low income developing countries over the next three years (fiscal years 1997-1999). New contributions from donor countries to this package should total about $11 billion, with the remainder of the funds coming mainly from past donor contributions, repayments of IDA credits and contributions from the World Bank itself.

88. Since 1960, IDA has provided almost $90 billion to some 90 countries. IDA lends only to those countries with a per capita income of less than $835 and lack the financial ability to borrow from the World Bank on market terms; it approves on average about $6 billion a year in funding different types of development projects, with a concentration on projects that help the poorest nations with their basic needs, such as food, clean water, health, family planning and education. IDA also funds projects which protect the environment, strengthen the private sector and supports economic reforms. During the IDA-10 period (1994-1996), between 45 and 50 per cent of funds are expected to go to countries in sub-Saharan Africa and a large amount will also support projects in low income countries in Asia.

G. Debt

89. IMF and the World Bank are working to provide special assistance to heavily indebted poor countries. The objective is to reduce to sustainable levels the external debt burden of a number of countries which have adopted reform and adjustment policies. The initiative would entail the participation of other international financial institutions, and the Paris Club and other bilateral creditors.

90. The criteria for determining whether a country's debt burden was sustainable were a debt-service ratio (debt-service payments as a percentage of export earnings) in the range of 20 to 25 per cent, and a present value of all claims on the country not exceeding 200 to 250 per cent of export earnings. To these criteria a third was added: a set of vulnerability factors by which to determine whether to target the lower or the upper end of the two ranges. Vulnerability factors include the country's reserve position, its vulnerability to shocks, its dependence on a single or a small number of commodity exports and the impact of debt service on its fiscal position.

91. Debt service relief could take various forms. The IMF Executive Board has agreed that it should provide resources on a more concessional basis than under the enhanced structural adjustment facility. The maturities of IMF claims on some countries could be extended. Another possibility is to provide grants to countries to help them service their obligations to IMF.

92. The initiative builds on existing mechanisms to a large extent. For a number of countries, one of the primary debt-relief mechanisms has been the application of the Naples terms. In applying such terms, the Paris Club provides rescheduling that reduces the annual debt-service burden of the country in the context of a three-year adjustment programme. At the end of that process, if the reform programme has performed well, the Paris Club provides stock-of-debt reduction. Under the new initiative it would be determined after the initial three-year period whether Naples terms, together with comparable relief by non-Paris Club bilateral donors and commercial creditors, would be sufficient to put the country in a sustainable debt-service position. If so, the Naples terms would be applied; if not, the adjustment process would continue, supported by additional IMF enhanced structural adjustment facility arrangements and programmes of the World Bank. The Paris Club would continue rescheduling, but they would increase the amount of debt relief they provide up to a net present value of 90 per cent.

H. New and innovative ideas for generating funds

93. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/161, requested the Economic and Social Council to consider new and innovative ideas for generating funds and to offer for that purpose any useful suggestions. The Council considered the question at its substantive session of 1996 and adopted resolution 1996/48 of 26 July 1996, which, inter alia, sets out the following principles:

(a) Funds generated by new and innovative ideas should not substitute official development assistance;

(b) New and innovative funding should be distinct from funding the regular budget and the peacekeeping budgets of the United Nations;

(c) The role of private investment in financing development should be stressed.

94. The Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report, in cooperation with UNDP, on all aspects of new and innovative ideas for generating funds for globally agreed commitments and priorities, in particular those established at recent United Nations conferences and summits. The report should include a review of their feasibility and possible modalities, as well as the costs and benefits of their implementation, and should be submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 1997. Governments were also invited to submit their views on the subject to the Secretary-General, who would communicate those views in a supplement to his report.

VI. INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER ACTORS

95. In its resolution 50/161, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners, the major groups as defined in Agenda 21, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and for ensuring their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national level.

96. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1996/208 of 9 February 1996, decided to invite, on an exceptional basis, all non-governmental organizations that had been accredited to participate in the Social Summit to participate at the special session of the Commission for Social Development held in May 1996. Consequently, 50 non-governmental organizations with close to 100 individuals attended the special session of the Commission, which represented the largest number of non-governmental organization participation in the history of the Commission.

97. In its recommendation to the Economic and Social Council, subsequently endorsed in Council resolution 1996/7, the Commission, at its special session, emphasized the need to ensure the involvement of those organizations in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national level. In view of the traditional importance of these organizations in the promotion of social development, the Commission further recommended that such organizations should be encouraged to participate in its work and in the monitoring and implementation process related to the Summit, to the maximum extent possible.

98. As indicated in paragraph 36 above, in its resolution 1996/31 on consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, the Council recognized the importance of the participation of non-governmental organizations without consultative status that participated in international conferences in the follow-up process and decided that their application for consultative status should be reviewed as expeditiously as

possible to allow their participation in the implementation phase of the conferences. With regard to their participation in the work of the relevant functional commissions on the follow-up to and implementation of the international conferences, the Council is to take interim decisions on the participation of these non-governmental organizations.

99. Non-governmental organizations have been actively involved in increasing the awareness of the public on the Summit and its follow-up, by undertaking a range of follow-up activities, including conferences, seminars, policy dialogues with Governments at the national level, and follow-up within the United Nations. A few examples of these are cited in the following paragraphs.

100. The International Council on Social Welfare, made up of a wide range of local, national and international organizations with special interests on issues related to social welfare and social development, adopted Summit follow-up as its top priority and held regional follow-up seminars for non-governmental organizations in Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and Europe. In July 1996, the International Council organized two important events at Hong Kong: an international symposium on the theme "Social Development for Justice, Equality and Peace", as well as an International Conference on Social Welfare. It also launched a new quarterly journal, the Social Development Review, which provides information, ideas and debate on follow-up activities to the Summit.

101. "Social Watch" is an initiative launched by a number of non-governmental organizations that participated at the Development Caucus during the Summit; they are from both the developed and the developing world. Among them are Novib, the Third World Institute, the Third World Network-Africa, the Latin American Women's Network and the Freedom from Debt Coalition. This watchdog system was established to monitor not only the implementation of the commitments made at the Social Summit, but also of those made at the Fourth World Conference on Women as well, and the aim is to ensure that national Governments and international organizations, implement the commitments entered into in Copenhagen and Beijing. The first of a series of "Social Watch" reports, entitled "The Starting Point", contains reports from non-governmental organizations already engaged in the follow-up process in different countries and regions, with emphasis on employment, health, women issues and education. These reports will be published on an annual basis.

102. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has contributed to major conferences and meetings of the United Nations by mobilizing parliamentary support at the national level. As a follow-up to the Summit, IPU organized a Tri-Partite Meeting of Parliamentary, Governmental and Inter-governmental Representatives to Follow Up on the World Summit for Social Development with the aim of enhancing cooperation among parliaments, Governments and intergovernmental organizations for the effective implementation of the results of the Summit. The ultimate objective of the meeting was to suggest concrete actions to be taken directly and indirectly by national parliaments and their members to follow-up and implement the result of the Summit. The meeting, held in conjunction with the United Nations Secretariat and UNDP, took place in New York on 5 and 6 September 1996.

103. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), whose main purpose is to promote the interests of working people throughout the world, participated actively during the Summit and its preparatory process. In following up the Summit, ICFTU has been active in pressing Governments and the United Nations system to translate the Copenhagen commitments into specific targets and policies. At the international level, attention has been focused on encouraging Governments to set up Summit action groups comprised of Government, social partners and non-governmental organizations to ensure that national targets are set. It also published a user's guide to the Social Summit. In March 1996, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Summit, ICFTU, in cooperation with ILO, UNDP and the United Nations Information Centre at Brussels, organized a seminar on the follow-up to the Summit in Brussels. The two central themes of this seminar were: the evaluation of action undertaken to implement the Commitments made at Copenhagen, and a look at areas which require further attention to boost the impact of the Summit.

104. The International Movement ATD Fourth World has, since 1993, observed the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October worldwide by a commemoration in honour of the victims of extreme poverty. As a follow-up to the Social Summit, in particular commitment 2 on the eradication of poverty, and in observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, a series of events are being organized by the Movement during 1996, including a two-day workshop held at Geneva from 24 to 26 June 1996, which was addressed by the Secretary-General. On 26 June, a "Dialogue on Poverty" between the Secretary-General and the Movement took place, during which the Secretary-General talked with 35 extremely poor men and women, who had been brought from countries around the globe to Geneva for the event.

105. The German non-governmental organization forum "World Social Summit" continues to monitor the implementation of the 20/20 initiative. It published a study entitled "Social Priorities in Development Cooperation", which traces the extent to which the 20/20 initiative is being implemented, particularly by the aid programme of the Government of Germany.

106. An alliance of a number of non-governmental organizations, known as the United Kingdom Coalition for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, actively campaigned to raise awareness about poverty and the problems caused by social exclusion in the United Kingdom.

107. In the Philippines, the National Council of Social Development Foundation (NCSD) published a country report on the Summit follow-up, entitled "Taking the Challenge of ESCAP's Agenda for Action on Social Development and the Ten Commitments of the Copenhagen Summit: The NCSD Experience". The report outlined NCSD activities related to the 10 commitments and made recommendations on ways and means of improving networking among non-governmental organizations and governmental organizations, as well as ways to further improve the implementation of the commitments made by the Philippines at the Summit.

108. In Australia, the Australian Council of Social Service and the Australian Council for Overseas Aid are jointly coordinating national non-governmental organization activities for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.

109. Finally, in its resolution 1996/7, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to ensure the full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and dissemination of information. In this context, the Secretary-General welcomes initiatives undertaken by non-governmental organizations, including those of the private sector, in the monitoring and implementation process related to the Summit, and encourages these organizations to report their activities to the Commission for Social Development through the Secretariat.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 9 (E/1996/29), chap. I, sect. A, para. 1.

2/ Ibid., para. 3.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8 (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C.

4/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (E/1996/26), chap. I, sect. C.2.